

October 20th, 2015
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in Regular Session at 212 W. Main Street with the following members present:

President Hepfer
Vice President Ryan
Councilwoman Bega
Councilman McBride
Councilman Hinkle
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Day, Project Director Malm, Finance Director Chiodo, Event Director Skeelee-Hogan, Deputy Clerk Jackson and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Plaisted and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilman Hinkle motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motioned carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4)a) City Wide Budget Carry Forward – Resolution – was addressed by President Hepfer.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to have City Clerk Davis read Resolution 2015-16 by title only. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2015-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2015 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, AMENDING THE, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, UTILITY FUND, CEMETERY FUND AND IMPACT FEE FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager DiGiovanni explained how this is an annual reconciliation of unfinished projects to move existing funds forward to the current. The continuation of on-going project development from one fiscal cycle to the next, maintains fiscal control and project accountability. The carry-forward of respective allotted funds means that, technically, the adopted level of spending will increase for 2015-16, but this does not mean new money is added, as we will only act to “carry-forward” existing funds. The budgeted carry-forward amount is \$4,147,900 to complete projects with appropriated fund from Fiscal Year 2014-15. The City is obligated to conduct and advertise a Public Hearing, and adopt the enclosed Resolution to provide disclosure and receive public comment.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- As requested, we appeared before the Legislative Delegation and made a presentation.
- A huge Mustang Car show occurred this weekend at Nick Nicholas Ford (City Sponsor) and participated as judges.
- Working on a program to bring additional technology into the utility system. This utility system needs to be monitored 24/7. We need a system that provides details for a quicker response to issues, and this would be a tremendous tool to make the utility system much more dependable.
- Met with residents of Pine Grove, and showing effort goes a long way.
- Sunday was the Annual Bicycle Ride, but the numbers of riders were down. He believes all of the recent rain contributed to the lack of riders. Would like to see if they may consider moving the ride to Saturday. Riders that come from far distances find it tougher to attend on Sunday.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilman McBride spoke of the City moving into high gear with upcoming events. Reminded that the Hernando – Citrus MPO meeting will be Oct. 20th at 1pm to develop transportation priorities.

Councilman Ryan attended the Habitat for Humanity ribbon-cutting and commended their efforts. He spoke of the budget meetings and this is a great town to live in and the way we are moving forward with issues is to our credit. Good to see people participating in our government.

Councilman Hinkle agreed that it is an honor to serve our community and that it's positive to have people come to us with their concerns. He spoke of the Crystal River Aquarium and it will be great to create jobs for everyone.

Councilwoman Bega stated it is great to move forward with the agreement with the County and come to terms on that land. She spoke to the Cooter Festival events.

Mayor Plaisted spoke to the bonuses and raises and gave a heartfelt thanks to our employees, as they are such a dedicated group. He spoke of the grand opening at Southern Pines and how George Rusaw has done a great job with Habitat for Humanity. Cooterstock is going to be a great thing. The Crystal River Aquarium project is exciting and if anyone can get it done, it is Art Jones.

Council President Hepfer agreed with what has been said about Habitat for Humanity, it is a great program. She questioned if reminder can go in the water bills about people leaving lawn clippings along the side of roads.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.


City Clerk


Council President

President Hepfer opened the Public Hearing.
There was no one speaking for or against the matter.
The Public Hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to adopt Resolution 2015-17, by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilman McBride. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; Councilman Hinkle, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

George Gouldborn approached Council regarding fluoride, and was opposed to having it in the city water.

Richard Fawcett, 832 Windermere Blvd., addressed Council and spoke of extensive research, and felt that fluoride contributed to his daughters illness, and would like for the city to remove from the water system.

Jim Rashley, Asst. Director of the Citrus County Health Department and provided a hand out of the State of Florida Surgeon General view on fluoride and encouraged them to keep the fluoride in the water.

Johnny Johnson- Jr. , DMD, MS Pediatric Dentist, Diplomat American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, Palm Harbor, FL and was speaking on behalf of the Florida Dental Association. He spoke to the history and benefits of fluoride, and how he has witnessed the difference in patients coming into his office with cavities vs. those who come from areas that don't have it. He stated that there are no studies over 70 yrs. time that show the amount of fluoride in water fluoridation causes any health issues. If need more information, hold off on voting this evening and hold a workshop.

Robert Brockett, Oral and Facial Surgeon and makes his living taking out teeth. There is science and conjecture and noted 360 references on fluoridation and how valuable it is over the last 60 years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention claim that community water Fluoridation is one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th Century. He stated that the Supreme Court said that whether the experts reasoning is scientifically valid /applicable in a given case is important and they set forth scientific criteria. He left with the Council a question and answer document which are scientifically based about fluoride. He has seen a lot of horrific things in children and adult over the past 25 years and cost of dental decay. He would hate to see anything that would restrict an individual from getting good dental care.

Dr. Ronald Fagan, Inverness Dentist for 25 years, stated how he has seen the effects of ramped tooth decay and noticed improvement in the 1990's, when he treated them with fluoride. Fluoride has been a successful proof of benefits.

Dr. Edward Pichardo, DMD, in Inverness stated how important it is to have Fluoride in the water. He has seen it with his patients and thinks it is important to keep it in the water.

Alex Sosnicki, Inverness resident, suggested that the City change the Fire Trucks color to orange or yellow. And paint the Fire Department house Orange & yellow as well. He spoke to a fire which took place in downtown many years ago.

Kelly DeMao, County resident stated that it was a good idea that city creates its own Fire Dept. and it is working for Crystal River as well. City residents will feel safer as City Fire Department is right around the corner. Many people have told her that they don't feel safe with the County Fire Dept.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

A **check presentation** from Woodard and Curran for \$7,500 as a city events partner was presented by Tom, Lead Operator; Mike Regina, project manager; and Glen, Area Manager.

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

7a) Proclamation – National American Indian Heritage Month – Mayor Plaisted presented a Proclamation for “National Indian Heritage Month” to Jody Holder; Bev Gentry; Betty Barker, Carolyn Ohlmeyer, and Kathe Echlin.

7b) Proclamation – Drug Free – “Red Ribbon Week” - Mayor Plaisted present a Proclamation to Mary Lee Cubbeson, recognizing October 22nd through October 30th, 2015 as “Red Ribbon Week”.

Mary Lee Cubbeson spoke of the opportunity their organization is provided by the city providing them space in this building, and the many aspects of what they accomplish.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Bega motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion carried.

- a) Bill Listing*
- Recommendation – Approval
 - b) Council Minutes – 10/06/15*
- Recommendation – Approval
 - c) Proclamation -VFW Post 4337 – Eugene Quinn– 70th Anniversary
- Recommendation – Approval

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10)a) Budget Transfer – P/T Salaries & Project Consultant was addressed, with City Manager DiGiovanni explaining that this situation is to move \$33,000 from Council Contingencies to fund the part time work of Marc Black, Construction Manager and Project Planner, for the City. We are developing a model that addresses the depot, storage building, garage and house of the former Godowski property. He noted that the end result must support trail activity, and create a better visual from the road to the lake, etc. The goal is to create a concentration of activity that encourages business activity.

Councilwoman Bega asked if there was a timeframe and was informed that there is currently more dialog being accomplished and we may see more concrete progress in approx. 6 months.

Councilman Hinkle spoke of W. K. Jenkins, the Station Master, of the Railroad Station many years ago, and how we should have the Station dedicated to him if we develop it.

Councilman McBride stated that this is another step of the vision we have moving forward.

City Manager DiGiovanni noted this to be part of the recent expanded CRA.

Councilman Ryan motioned to approve the allocation of \$33,000 of Council Contingencies to support development concepts and plans to create an activity center of tourism and retail at the north side of the downtown. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried unanimously.

10)b) Fund Balance Designation- City Manager DiGiovanni noted that the annual appropriations of funds is crucial to the City's financial well-being, and this action allocates available fund balances to specific purposes. A Resolution has been created to support the recommended action for the 2015-16 budget year. The total amount involved is \$13,751,443.00 found on Exhibit A of the enclosed Resolution. He noted that the fund balances are healthy, the community is stable, and the future is bright.

Councilman Hinkle motioned to read Resolution 2015-16 by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2015-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING FUND BALANCE RESERVE DESIGNATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman McBride motioned to adopt Resolution 2015-16, by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilman Hinkle. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; Councilman Hinkle, yes; Councilman Ryan, yes; President Hepfer, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

10)c) Quick Care Med – Pre-Employment Physicals was addressed. City Manager DiGiovanni explained that an annual review is conducted of costs associated with employee medical physicals, pre-employment exams, drug screening, post job offer exam, FDOT Driver Testing, and general physical examinations governed by Personnel Rules and Regulations. The program is structured with five categories, with expenses incurred only when deemed necessary. Cost wise, the most used procedures remain the

same. He noted how the cost has declined over the past several years. Based on program history, we do not expect a material increase in over all annum expenditures.

Councilman McBride motioned to accept the Quick Care Med Contract for Employee Testing and Physicals and authorize that the Council President execute the document. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.

10)d) Fluoride - City Manager DiGiovanni spoke to Fluoridation of the public water supply and how it was introduced after WWII, with many cities the program to include Inverness commencing a program in the late 1970's. It was introduced as a means to help prevent tooth decay. Approximately 99% of administered fluoride in drinking water goes down the drain and into the environment, through washing dishes, laundry, showers and most people consume bottled water. The product is governed by the FDA and cost roughly \$15,000 per annum.

City Manager spoke to the professionalism and knowledge in the room and didn't want to get into all of the different aspects of chlorination. We must maintain this water supply to other entities, including residents, businesses, schools and the hospital. This is not about harm or cost, but about water quality, and our outlook was to look at the end product. We need to be sure what we put in the water does not harm the ultimate goal of taste, smell, and clarity.

Councilman Ryan stated he has received several phone calls with concerns that grandchildren wouldn't get this and therefore concerned with cavities. With the cost as nominal he was for continuation of Fluoride treatment in water.

Councilwoman Bega found information online that the most effected by fluoride in the water are children eight years and younger. After hearing from public she would like to leave it in the water.

Councilman Hinkle stated his concern that we have proper protection for our employees, but in favor of continuing it.

Councilman McBride was in favor of keeping fluoride in the water.

Council President Hepfer concurred with keeping it in water.

Mayor Plaisted spoke to the dentists present this evening and the pro bono work they do for the community.

Consensus was to leave the fluoride in the water.

10)e) Valerie Theatre Presents: A Christmas Holiday Event will be the first major event at the theater with a group called the Ditchfield Family Singers. Alan Forino, Manager of the Theatre announced the date and times of the inaugural opening of the first show. The Citrus High School Chorus and Mr. and Mrs. Claus will make an appearance, incorporating the community into the Theatre. He announced tickets on sale October 29th at the Valerie Theatre box office, which is open Thursday through Saturday 12 – 4pm. Tickets are also available on the ValerieTheatre.com website and on Tixs.com.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- The City will perform, under direction of DEP, a chlorine burn of the water system, which will clean the pipes and remove impurities which build up over time. Notices will be included in utility bills, information on City webpage, tweeting, and media. Meaningful step to maintain water quality. This process could take 3-4 weeks to

complete as it is dealing with underground pipes. This procedure will follow guidelines of DEP and Woodard Curran will administer the program. This will help maintain water quality into the future.

- Valerie Theatre was well received during the 9/11 event and will be utilized to support the Festival of the Arts in November.
- The Turtle is taking center stage. This is Cooter Festival Month which is in the 11th year. Even though the festival is not new, some people are writing like it is new and writing in a negative way. If anything, the newspaper's negative campaign has increased shirts sales. The event this year will be bigger and better involving Cooterstock. Investment by the City and support of the community is leading to more tourism. Fireworks, water entertainment, rides for children and marketing has been expanded.
- An ad appeared in the Sunday newspaper regarding the Fire Dept. to let the community know the facts of what is happening. Our City is a progressive city that invests wisely and takes the proper steps of diligence to bring forward high quality services, projects, and events. Will continue to get information to citizens whatever way it takes. Spoke of recent editorials and how Inverness has been portrayed negatively.
- The recent land swap between the city and the county got positive comments at County Commission meeting, although it didn't make the paper.
- Process for recruitment of a Fire Chief is underway this week. Once a Fire Chief is hired we will immediately look at additional recruitment. We are working with Senator Dean on legislature to bring volunteerism and a much more progressive manner at the state level. This legislation is supported by County government by supporting the initiative of the city. Additionally, we now have 3 Fire Trucks and we are moving to hire high quality employees, Fire Dept. equipment, etc.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke to the great ad on the Fire Dept. He spoke of being approached by the Chronicle regarding the double entendre of the Cooter T-shirts. This started as a family oriented festival and we are losing that aspect. He thanked the dentists on what they do for the community and spoke to the Nature Coast ministries and their dental bus.

Councilman McBride commend City Manager on his comments on local press. He noted that he is on the opposite side of the fence on Fire Dept. He attended a ribbon-cutting for Kookies by Connie. Attended the MPO meeting today and announced Hwy 41N is still the number one priority to them, however state government moves very slowly. On the MPO agenda was also transportation alternatives to include sidewalks, trails, etc. which has been placed at #7 on their priority list. Excited about the upcoming show at the Valerie Theatre and how the community is being involved.

Councilwoman Bega thanked doctors and the public who came with information this evening. She is looking forward to Cooter Fest and Cooterween and has her costume ready.

Councilman Hinkle spoke of Allendale, SC as holding the first Cooter Festival. He has his costume ready for Cooterween. He is looking forward to many upcoming events. Spoke to the Godowski property and how we plan into the future, and to the new

helicopter landing pad at the Hospital. He questioned if the County did approve the Land Swap and was informed yes. Thanked all of the dentists present.

Councilman Ryan thanked the dentists in attendance and spoke to comments from community and how welcomed their comments are. He spoke of the great ad on the fire department and feels that the recent negative articles are disturbing people. Spoke to Cooter Fest, the Art Festival and the opening event at the Valerie.

Council President Hepfer spoke to the fluoride in the water and thanked the dentists present at this evening's meeting. Agreed with Mayor Plaisted regarding the Cooter Festival shirt that didn't have a turtle on it. We need to tone it down and make it more about the turtle. Questioned tickets for the upcoming Valerie event, the recent ribbon-cutting, and it is good to hear that DOT is fast tracking Hwy 41.

Mayor Plaisted noted that tonight there were three young people present who attended this evening to see what Council meetings were about. He introduced Camilla, which is an exchange student from Peru, staying with him and his wife Cookie.


CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Karen Esty thanked Councilman McBride for his service on the MPO board and was happy to hear that Hwy 41 went to the top of the list. Sounds like great improvements to the Godowski property. Employees of the city do wonderful things.

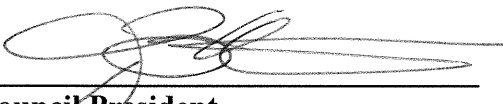
Johnny Johnson addressed City Manager's concerns with fluoride safety aspects. CDC has a water fluoridation course and would highly recommend that someone attend. He spoke of improvements to handling chemicals.

Harry Kratzer questioned the chlorine burn and how the pipes used to be flushed out. City Manager explained how some areas may need to be flushed and some may not, and the action is scheduled in areas of need.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:13pm



City Clerk



Council President